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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/751,062	01/02/2004	Ennis W. Rushton	1119-P-1	1238

7590 11/03/2004
TOD R. NISSELE, P.C.
P.O. Box 55630
Phoenix, AZ 85078

EXAMINER

RICCI, JOHN A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3714

DATE MAILED: 11/03/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/751,062

Applicant(s)

RUSHTON, ENNIS W

Examiner

John Ricci

Art Unit

3714

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 July 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 2 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 2 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

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Applicant's election without traverse of Claim 2 is acknowledged.

Claim 1 is withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim.

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

It is not clear if the paint ball hopper referred to at line 6, is the same as that of line 1. Also, there are additional words that appear after the claim.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anderson 5,947,100 in view of Wilson 4,182,519.

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Anderson shows a paintball gun having a riser 155 having an inner surface of a selected size; and a paint ball hopper having a neck 250 having an outer surface which fits within the riser. However, if the riser is larger than the neck, the neck will fit loosely and may fall off. One would recognize that it would be desirable to provide means to more securely connect the neck to the riser. For example, Wilson shows that a neck member 12 may be fitted in a riser member 14, and an elastomeric ring 10 may be mounted to the neck member to more securely hold the neck in the riser. The elastomeric member would be selected to have a size to mate with the riser, and this would inherently involve selecting the elastomeric member from among other elastomeric members having different sizes. It would have been obvious to use such selected elastomeric member to connect the neck into the riser, in the gun shown by Anderson.

* * * * *

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

* * * * *

This letter was prepared by Examiner John Ricci, who can be reached at:

Voice: 703-308-4751

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Fax: Use 703-872-9306 for papers to be delivered directly to the mail room, like formal amendments and responses, change of address, power of attorney, petitions.

Use 703-783-0439 for papers to be delivered directly to the Examiner, like informal or proposed responses for discussion, or notes in preparation for an interview.

Response by Fax is encouraged to reduce mail processing time. Please don't send duplicate papers by mail and Fax.

My supervisor is Derris Banks, 703-308-1745.

PTO main switchboard: 800-786-9199.

Visit our Web site at www.uspto.gov.



**JOHN RICCI
PRIMARY EXAMINER
ART UNIT 3714**